

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please add claims 30-32 and cancel claims 10-11 and 16-18, as indicated below. A complete listing of claims pending in the application following entry of this Amendment are presented as follows:

1. (Original) A showcase comprising:

a showcase body having a front opening;

a goods-storing room formed in said showcase body;

a plurality of goods shelves arranged in said goods-storing room so as to be vertically spaced from one another;

a ventilation passage formed along a rear face of said goods-storing room; and

a cooler and a blower that are disposed in said ventilation passage,

wherein an air outlet for discharging air, cooled by said cooler after being sucked through an air inlet provided at a lower front end of said goods-storing room into said ventilation passage, to said goods-storing room is provided at an upper rear end of said goods-storing room, so as to cause at least part of air discharged therefrom to descend along the rear face of said goods-storing room between the rear face of said goods-storing room and rear ends of said goods shelves, and

air passages are individually provided at lower faces of most of said goods shelves, so as to permit the air descending along the rear face of said goods-storing room to flow therethrough from the rear ends towards front ends of these goods shelves and permit part of the air flowing therethrough to be discharged downward.

2. (Original) The showcase according to claim 1, wherein said air passages are formed so as to discharge the air not only downward but also forward.

3. (Original) The showcase according to claim 1, wherein each of said goods shelves is comprised of upper and lower shelf plates spaced at a distance from each other and defining the

air passage therebetween, with the lower shelf plate formed with a plurality of ventilation holes through which the air in the air passage is discharged.

4. (Original) The showcase according to claim 2, wherein each of the goods shelves is comprised of upper and lower shelf plates spaced at a distance from each other and defining the air passage therebetween, with the lower shelf plate formed with a plurality of ventilation holes through which the air in the air passage is discharged.

5-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) The showcase according to claim 2, wherein each of said goods shelves is provided at its rear end with an air guide member for causing the air descending along the rear face of said goods-storing room to flow into the air passage of the good shelf.

13. (Previously Presented) The showcase according to claim 12, wherein each of said goods shelves is provided with a plurality of air guide members spaced from one another in a width direction of the goods shelf, with the air guide members for an upper one of said goods shelves being smaller in number than those for a lower one of said goods shelves.

14. (Previously Presented) The showcase according to claim 3, wherein each of said goods shelves is provided at its rear end with an air guide member for causing the air descending along the rear face of said goods-storing room to flow into the air passage of the good shelf.

15. (Previously Presented) The showcase according to claim 14, wherein each of said goods shelves is provided with a plurality of air guide members spaced from one another in a width direction of the goods shelf, with the air guide members for an upper one of said goods shelves being smaller in number than those for a lower one of said goods shelves.

16-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) The showcase according to claim 2, wherein each of said goods shelves is provided at its rear end with an air guide member for guiding the air descending along the rear face of said goods-storing room into between the rear end of the goods shelf and the rear face of said goods-storing room.

20. (Previously Presented) The showcase according to claims 3, wherein each of said goods shelves is provided at its rear end with an air guide member for guiding the air descending along the rear face of said goods-storing room into between the rear end of the goods shelf and the rear face of said goods-storing room.

21. (Previously Presented) The showcase according to claims 4, wherein each of said goods shelves is provided at its rear end with an air guide member for guiding the air descending along the rear face of said goods-storing room into between the rear end of the goods shelf and the rear face of said goods-storing room.

22. (Previously Presented) The showcase according to claim 1, wherein each of said goods shelves is provided at its rear side with air guide plates that cover a gap between the rear end of the goods shelf and the rear face of said goods-storing room from both widthwise sides of the goods shelf.

23. (Previously Presented) The showcase according to claim 2, wherein each of said goods shelves is provided at its rear side with air guide plates that cover a gap between the rear end of the goods shelf and the rear face of said goods-storing room from both widthwise sides of the goods shelf.

24. (Previously Presented) The showcase according to claim 3, wherein each of said goods shelves is provided at its rear side with air guide plates that cover a gap between the rear end of

the goods shelf and the rear face of said goods-storing room from both widthwise sides of the goods shelf.

25. (Previously Presented) The showcase according to claim 4, wherein each of said goods shelves is provided at its rear side with air guide plates that cover a gap between the rear end of the goods shelf and the rear face of said goods-storing room from both widthwise sides of the goods shelf.

26. (Previously Presented) The showcase according to claim 1, wherein upper one or ones of said goods shelves are provided at its and/or their front ends with a discharge restriction member of a predetermined height capable of restricting air on the goods shelf or shelves from being discharged forwardly.

27. (Previously Presented) The showcase according to claim 2, wherein upper one or ones of said goods shelves are provided at its and/or their front ends with a discharge restriction member of a predetermined height capable of restricting air on the goods shelf or shelves from being discharged forwardly.

28. (Previously Presented) The showcase according to claim 3, wherein upper one or ones of said goods shelves are provided at its and/or their front ends with a discharge restriction member of a predetermined height capable of restricting air on the goods shelf or shelves from being discharged forwardly.

29. (Previously Presented) The showcase according to claim 4, wherein upper one or ones of said goods shelves are provided at its and/or their front ends with a discharge restriction member of a predetermined height capable of restricting air on the goods shelf or shelves from being discharged forwardly.

30. (New) A showcase comprising:

a showcase body having a front opening;
a goods-storing room formed in said showcase body;
a plurality of goods shelves arranged in said goods-storing room so as to be vertically spaced from one another;
a ventilation passage formed along a rear face of said goods-storing room; and
a cooler and a blower that are disposed in said ventilation passage,
wherein an air outlet for discharging air, cooled by said cooler after being sucked through an air inlet provided at a lower front end of said goods-storing room into said ventilation passage, to said goods-storing room is provided at an upper rear end of said goods-storing room, so as to cause at least part of air discharged therefrom to descend along the rear face of said goods-storing room between the rear face of said goods-storing room and rear ends of said goods shelves, and

air passages are individually provided at lower faces of most of said goods shelves, so as to permit the air descending along the rear face of said goods-storing room to flow therethrough from the rear ends towards front ends of these goods shelves and permit part of the air flowing therethrough to be discharged downward,

wherein each of said goods shelves is provided at its rear end with an air guide member for causing the air descending along the rear face of said goods-storing room to flow into the air passage of the good shelf, and each of said goods shelves is provided with a plurality of air guide members spaced from one another in a width direction of the goods shelf, with the air guide members for an upper one of said goods shelves being smaller in number than those for a lower one of said goods shelves.

31. (New) A showcase comprising:

a showcase body having a front opening;
a goods-storing room formed in said showcase body;
a plurality of goods shelves arranged in said goods-storing room so as to be vertically spaced from one another;
a ventilation passage formed along a rear face of said goods-storing room; and

a cooler and a blower that are disposed in said ventilation passage, wherein an air outlet for discharging air, cooled by said cooler after being sucked through an air inlet provided at a lower front end of said goods-storing room into said ventilation passage, to said goods-storing room is provided at an upper rear end of said goods-storing room, so as to cause at least part of air discharged therefrom to descend along the rear face of said goods-storing room between the rear face of said goods-storing room and rear ends of said goods shelves, and

air passages are individually provided at lower faces of most of said goods shelves, so as to permit the air descending along the rear face of said goods-storing room to flow therethrough from the rear ends towards front ends of these goods shelves and permit part of the air flowing therethrough to be discharged downward, and said air passages are formed so as to discharge the air not only downward but also forward,

wherein each of the goods shelves is comprised of upper and lower shelf plates spaced at a distance from each other and defining the air passage therebetween, with the lower shelf plate formed with a plurality of ventilation holes through which the air in the air passage is discharged,

and wherein each of said goods shelves is provided at its rear end with an air guide member for causing the air descending along the rear face of said goods-storing room to flow into the air passage of the good shelf, and each of said goods shelves is provided with a plurality of air guide members spaced from one another in a width direction of the goods shelf, with the air guide members for an upper one of said goods shelves being smaller in number than those for a lower one of said goods shelves.

32. (New) A showcase comprising:

- a showcase body having a front opening;
- a goods-storing room formed in said showcase body;
- a plurality of goods shelves arranged in said goods-storing room so as to be vertically spaced from one another;
- a ventilation passage formed along a rear face of said goods-storing room; and
- a cooler and a blower that are disposed in said ventilation passage,

wherein an air outlet for discharging air, cooled by said cooler after being sucked through an air inlet provided at a lower front end of said goods-storing room into said ventilation passage, to said goods-storing room is provided at an upper rear end of said goods-storing room, so as to cause at least part of air discharged therefrom to descend along the rear face of said goods-storing room between the rear face of said goods-storing room and rear ends of said goods shelves, and

air passages are individually provided at lower faces of most of said goods shelves, so as to permit the air descending along the rear face of said goods-storing room to flow therethrough from the rear ends towards front ends of these goods shelves and permit part of the air flowing therethrough to be discharged downward,

wherein each of said goods shelves is provided at its rear end with an air guide member for guiding the air descending along the rear face of said goods-storing room into between the rear end of the goods shelf and the rear face of said goods-storing room.